

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29. (Cancelled)

1 30.(New) A recombinant DNA vector comprising an *NHX1* polynucleotide
2 sequence encoding a truncated NHX1 polypeptide comprising a C-terminal deletion, which
3 truncated NHX1 polypeptide comprises a sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 10 and
4 is less than 530 amino acids in length, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide confers
5 increased Na⁺ tolerance in a plant compared to a plant that lacks the *NHX1* polynucleotide
6 sequence.

1 31. (New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the *NHX1*
2 polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO. 9.

1 32. (New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the truncated
2 NHX1 polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 10.

1 33. (New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the truncated
2 NHX1 polypeptide is less than 500 amino acids in length.

1 34. (New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the truncated
2 NHX1 polypeptide is less than 475 amino acids in length.

1 35. (New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, further comprising a
2 promoter.

1 36. (New) A purified *NHX1* polynucleotide encoding a truncated NHX1
2 polypeptide comprising a C-terminal deletion, which truncated NHX1 polypeptide comprises a

3 sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 10 and is less than 530 amino acids in length,
4 wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide confers increased Na⁺ tolerance in a plant compared to
5 a plant that lacks the *NHX1* polynucleotide sequence.

1 37. (New) The purified *NHX1* polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the *NHX1*
2 polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO. 9.

1 38. (New) The purified *NHX1* polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the
2 truncated NHX1 polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 10.

1 39. (New) The purified *NHX1* polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the
2 truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 500 amino acids in length.

 40. (New) The purified *NHX1* polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the
truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 475 amino acids in length.